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## Introduction

Anyone who has done research in the Geelong region knows that many Scots settled in the area and many were amongst the first settlers. It's a fact and we all know it! BUT if we are presenting historical research to "outsiders" it is important to substantiate these "facts".

While preparing a presentation for the Scottish Ancestry Group, a special interest group of the Genealogical Society of Victoria, we started compiling the evidence to support those well-known facts.

This publication is not a book listing all Scots in Geelong and district to 1860 – such a book would take many years to compile and then still contain only a small percentage of people of Scottish origins who came to our region.

Instead it looks at who the early settlers of Scottish nationality or descent were, why they came here, and how they encouraged others to do likewise.

First we identify some Scots who were in our region before settlement in 1835 ... just because they were Scots!

Then we look at the organisations that brought those Scottish settlers to our region in the first five years of settlement and how they encouraged others to join them – a story of migration by association – families, friends, neighbours and business connections.

The second decade of settlement saw emigration schemes in Scotland resulting in a large number of Scots arriving in the region. Some were voluntary, some necessary and others involuntary.

By the time news of the gold rush brought immigrants from many countries to Port Phillip and the Geelong district, the Scots arrived to find a well established Scottish community with churches, schools, hotels, sport and societies to help them settle into their new way of life.

Geelong itself was a reason for many Scottish immigrants either to make it their home or their stepping off point - the gateway to the Western Districts and the goldfields. Geelong was called the Pivot for very good reasons.

In this book we refer to "Geelong and district". In the very early years that really encompassed all areas to the west and north-west of Geelong and extending to the South Australian border. Once settlement had progressed in Port Phillip, the term Geelong and district for our research area refers to places within the arc from the Otways, north to just below Ballarat, and across to Werribee. [See map at the end of this section]

Although this book is not a "list of all Scottish residents to 1860" we do provide a very extensive list of Scots who were here during that period. Those identified in the 'People: A-Z' section were carefully selected based on very specific criteria and give a good cross-section of the Scottish community in the first 25 years of settlement in our region.



Although we could have found more references and justification for our initial claims, in the time allowed we believe we have achieved our aim and substantiated our statement of “lots of Scots, lots of early ones”. And hopefully the reader of this book will be satisfied with our explanation of how and why so many Scots arrived in our region.

A couple of facts that can't be refuted:

- The first Presbyterian Church service to be held in Port Philip [Victoria] was conducted by the Rev James Clow at the home of Dr Alexander Thomson in Geelong.
- The first Scottish Society to be formed in Port Philip [Victoria] was in Geelong.

In the process of doing this research we identified two issues that concerned us as local researchers. Until you do very specific research, sometimes you take things for granted and that was the case here.

Firstly it was disconcerting to discover the number of variations in spelling of the first Scottish Society in Geelong appearing in references and indexes in our region. The answer and the justification can be found in the chapter on Societies.

The second issue of concern was that, to date, there appears to be no proof that the well-known area called ‘Little Scotland’ in Geelong had anything whatsoever to do with Scottish residents in that clearly defined location! That doesn't mean that it wasn't full of Scottish residents, just that there is no proof. And that's where the reader can contribute to this research. That proof can only come from family history researchers – it's all explained in the chapter on ‘Commemorating Scottish places and people’.

This publication has ended up with a far greater number of pages than first envisaged – even more proof of our “lots of Scots, lots of early ones”! That created more problems – finding sufficient time to produce a printed publication to coincide with the presentation to the Scottish Ancestry Group, and trying to keep both the printing and postage cost down for potential purchasers. That problem has been solved with the decision to produce an E-Book on CD Rom although it doesn't preclude a “print-on-demand” version becoming available later for those who still like the feel of paper in their hands. And of course one of the benefits of the E-Book produced in Adobe Acrobat format means that it is fully text searchable, despite an extensive index being provided.

Read on and enjoy. And we can categorically confirm ... “lots of Scots and lots of early ones”.



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Map showing rough area covered by "Geelong and district"



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